

Annual Reports of the Commission, containing such recommendations, for the years 1997-1998, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, alongwith the Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations contained therein, have been Tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 11th and 18th December, 2006.

Unemployment rate among the Christians

2964. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Christians have highest unemployment percentage in India in comparison with other communities;

(b) the unemployment rate among the Christians in Central India;

(c) whether Government have any plan to offer special measures to generate employment among the tribal Christians in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and

(d) if so, the details of the projects Government propose to take up during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) As per Report No. 521 of the National Sample Survey (NSS) 61st round, the unemployment rate among Christians was higher as compared to that among the Hindus or the Muslims. The details are available on the web site www.mospi.gov.in of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation.

(c) and (d) Under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), a total of 80 districts covered are in these six States.

Besides, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities envisages earmarking of 15% of outlay for minorities, including

tribal Christians, under three schemes related directly to employment generation, i.e., Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

Reservation for backward classes among minorities

2965. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for reservation for socially and educationally backward classes among minorities including Muslims and Christians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, set up in October 2004, has, as one of its terms of reference, "to recommend measures for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment".

Special scheme in minority predominant backward districts

†2966. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government are going to start a special scheme in minority-predominant backward districts;

(b) the number of districts alongwith names of States where Muslims population is 15 to 20 per cent of total population alongwith the details of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.